

State Program Standing Committee
July 17, 2014
Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Meeting commences: 9:34 am

Members present: Emily Anderson, Anne Bakeman, Max Barrows, Linda Berger, Julie Cunningham, Bethany Drum, Joe Greenwald, Nicole LeBlanc, Edwin Place, Barbara Prine, Connie Woodberry, and Susan Yuan

Members absent: Greg Mairs, Kyle Moriarty, and Theresa Wood

Guests & Staff: Sima Breiterman, Alysia Chapman, Camille George, Laurie Lintner, Katelyn Manning, Betty Milizia, Kirsten Murphy, Karen Noone, Chris O'Neill, Tina Royer, Karen Schwartz, Marlys Waller, and Susan Wehry

Minutes: The June minutes were reviewed. Bethany Drum motioned to accept the minutes, and Anne Bakeman seconded the motion. Minutes approved by everyone.

HCRS Re-Designation Update: Chris O'Neill provided an update on the HCRS re-designation report. Linda Berger asked if Max Barrows wrote a letter on behalf of GMSA to address the lack of consumers on the governing board. George Karakabakis addressed the concern by indicating that HCRS is moving forward with recruiting a consumer with DS for the board. Laurie Lintner stated they are offering Word training, and inviting other staff up to see how their ISA's and trainings occur. Susan Yuan explained what Social Role Valorization was. Linda Berger motioned to revote based on the information that was received today. Bethany Drum seconded the motion. Joe Greenwald was concerned that the committee was asking for a revote too quickly. Anne Bakeman proposed an amendment to the motion to wait for the 6 months review. After further discussion 2 members of the SPCS voted to revote, 10 members voted to not revote. Linda Berger motioned to discuss the process when an agency is working on re-designation, how voice and safety factor in. Anne Bakeman seconded the motion. The motion passed. Chris O'Neill was asked to come back, and this will be placed on the agenda for the September meeting. *(Post Note: we may need to move this discussion to a future meeting, depending on any other time sensitive agenda items that need to be addressed in September)*

Housing and Technology Workgroup: Kirsten Murphy provided a summary from the Housing and Technology workgroup. The desired outcome of this workgroup was for:

- Vermonters with I/DD have more choices in terms of where they live, who they live with, and how they are supported, including technology-based supports.
- Vermonters with I/DD enjoy a higher quality of life, reporting greater social connectedness and reduced loneliness.

The recommendation of the workgroup:

- Create an Independent Living Task Force to explore ideas that will propel forward collaborative efforts to achieving the following four goals in systems serving Vermonters with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
 - Create more options & opportunities for rental assistance.
 - Increase affordable, accessible, and appropriate rental units.
 - Build a culture of high expectations and greater independence.
 - Enhance the use of technology

Recommendations of the State Program Standing Committee:

- Barb Prine thought it a good idea to form an Independent Living Task Force, but one that focused on implementation as opposed to more research. She would like to work on this group.
 - Camille asked if the group could be a sub-group of the SPSC.

- Susan Yuan would like it to be a part of VCIL.
- It was also asked that this task force could be a part of the agency housing committee.
- Look at what other states are doing.

Updates: Camille provided the following updates:

- The System of Care Plan FY 15-17 has been finalized. The committee asked that this topic be placed on a future agenda. Barb Prine asked that when the topic is presented, only the main details be discussed.
- *DS Imagine the Future* Task Force: The final meeting of the Task Force was held on June 23rd. They reviewed the initial draft report for the Task Force. They heard the summary from the DD Act workgroup. The committee voted on recommendations that were suggested by the members. The final draft report will go out to the Task Force members to incorporate input from the initial draft, and asking for final comments. The Final Report will be sent to the SPSC for review and feedback.
- Act 140 – Bill H728: DAIL is in the beginning phases of implementing Act 140 (*an act relating to developmental disabilities services' system of care*). The plan is to review the language from Act 140, identify those parts of the new SOCP that need to be moved into the existing regulations and start the rule making process. The DAIL staff working on this includes Camille George, June Bascom, Chris O'Neill, Clare McFadden & Jackie Rogers, along with Alice Kennedy from the legal department.
- The Federal Department of Labor (DOL) sent out further guidance regarding the Companionship Rule. The State will need to look at individual programs and scenarios, and how will the rule apply. Marlys Waller added: DOL issued clarification acknowledging the shared living model. The clarification appears to work okay for Vermont. However, there are still questions regarding third party employment.
- TBI legislation (*Act 158 – an act relating to the commitment of a criminal defendant who is incompetent to stand trial because of a traumatic brain injury*): DAIL is working with others to implement this law. This involves work to estimate how many people in Vermont may fall into this category, researching best practices in working with this population and developing a proposal for services and programs in Vermont, with an implementation date of 2017.

Commissioners Update: Susan Wehry, M.D.:

- There is currently a lot of activity in the Autism community regarding the DS Task Force, and the possible elimination of services. The Task Force met and asked, "Should we change eligibility now"? After much discussion, there is no recommendation to look at eligibility for services. If we are to look at eligibility, there would need to be a longer conversation.
- Choices for Care (CFC) Reinvestment: CFC ended SFY 14 with \$955,000. \$250,000 is committed to deal with waitlist in VCIL's Home Access Program and with the CFC Moderate Needs Group (MNG). There is \$660,000 available to consider investing. This is in addition to the \$2.7 million that is being invested in the MNG. DAIL will be soliciting ideas from a broad group of stakeholders about possible future investments in long-term services and supports.
- Health reform activity is gearing up. They will be having a new round of SIM grants being released at the end of July. Commissioner Wehry asked if they would like her to come back to a future meeting to discuss; and the group responded positively to this offer, when appropriate.

Meeting adjourned: 12:30pm